

3. (Twice amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 2, characterized in that the triac drive circuit includes two transistors.

7. (Amended) A method for driving piezoelectric fuel injector elements divided into a plurality of injector banks, each bank containing at least one piezoelectric element, each bank being selected for charging or discharging by a bank selection-switch, characterized by driving a triac drive circuit to drive a triac to selectively charge and discharge the piezoelectric element.

11. (Amended) An apparatus for driving a plurality of piezoelectric fuel injector elements assigned to a plurality of injector banks, each injector bank including at least one piezoelectric fuel injector element, comprising :

a bank-selection switch corresponding to each injector bank and configured to be selected to one of charge and discharge the corresponding injector bank, each bank-selection switch including a triac and a triac drive circuit configured to drive the triac, the triac adapted to selectively charge and discharge the piezoelectric element.

17. (Amended) A method for driving a plurality of piezoelectric fuel injector elements assigned to a plurality of injector banks, each injector bank including at least one piezoelectric fuel injector element, comprising the steps of:

selecting each injector bank for one of charging and discharging by a bank selection-switch corresponding to a respective injector bank, the bank selection-switch including a triac and a triac drive circuit; and

driving the triac drive circuit to drive the triac to selectively charge and discharge the piezoelectric element.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is

RECEIVED
MAR 18 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3803